

Stability of Biodiesel from Non Edible Oils

J. Madarasz¹, Amit Kumar²

¹ Department of Inorganic and Analytical Chemistry
Budapest University of Technology and Economics

² Department of Mechanical Engineering, university of Alberta, Edmonton
Alberta, Canada

¹jmadarasz.hungary@gmail.com, ²amit.kumar@ualberta.ca

Abstract-Alternate fuels are being explored world over due to increasing environmental concern and diminishing petroleum reserves. In South Asian countries like India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka etc, biodiesel can be harvested and sourced from non-edible seed oils like *Jatropha*. In fact, implementation of biodiesel from *Jatropha* in India will lead to many advantages like providing green cover to wasteland, support to agricultural and rural economy, and reduction in dependency on imported crude oil and reduction in air pollution. Although biodiesel is environmentally compatible, it is susceptible to oxidation. The research on biodiesel stability has been put on top priority. Biodiesel from *Jatropha curcas* oil is relatively unstable on storage and forms residual products such as insoluble gums and aldehydes that may cause engine problems like filter clogging, injector coking, and corrosion of metal parts. The present paper deals with the review of work done for stability of biodiesel from *Jatropha curcas* oil all over the world.

Keywords-biodiesel; oxidation stability; thermal stability; induction period

I. INTRODUCTION

In recent years, the biodiesel, as an eco-friendly and renewable fuel substitute for diesel has been getting the interest of scientists and workers all over the world. The research conducted so far have revealed the suitability of B₂₀ blends as no engine modification is required and the energy contents and output power level are similar to that obtained from petro- diesel. In developing countries like India, biofuel program of Government of India has been launched where apart from fuel; alcohol production from sugar/starch based feedstock, the *Jatropha curcas* plant has been planted on massive scale on waste/ degraded or other lands to open new avenues for producing biodiesel from *Jatropha curcas* oil thereby reducing/saving foreign exchange needed to import the petroleum fuel. In biodiesel production, India is on 8th position with 0.03 billion liters of biodiesel production per year [1, 2 and 3].

Further, increased environmental degradation owing to fast depleting petroleum reserves and strong agro-based economy of the country are promoting the use of biodiesel as an alternate renewable transport fuel. In USA and Europe, biodiesel derived from vegetable oil and animal fats is already been used to reduce air pollution to improve fuel supply situation and to reduce dependence on fossil fuel, which are limited and localized to specific regions.

In different countries of the world, different resources are used for biodiesel production. For example, USA and Europe, the surplus edible oils like soybean oil, sunflower oil and rapeseed oil are being used as feedstocks for the production of biodiesel. Since India is net importer of edible vegetable oils, these oils are therefore not available for conversion to

biodiesel. India has the potential of becoming the world's leading producer of biodiesel, as it can be "harvested," and produced from non-edible oils like *Jatropha Curcas*, *Pongamia Pinnata*, *Madhuca Indica* plants etc. As indicated above, India is focusing on *Jatropha Curcas* plant, which can grow in arid, semiarid and wasteland, requires little water and fertilizer, can survive on infertile soils and not browsed by the cattle. Further, it is resistant to pests and has high seed production for 30–40 years or more with 30–40% oil contents. Developing countries like India has about 80–100 million hectares of wasteland, that can be used for the *Jatropha* cultivation. The increasing use of biodiesel in India will provide green cover to wasteland, support the agricultural and rural economy, reduce the dependency on imported crude oil and improve the environmental emissions [4].

Even though, 12 *Jatropha* species are reported by several Indian floras, research has been confined to nine species only. Among all the *Jatropha* species, *J. curcas* is the most primitive form and has the potential for biodiesel and for medicinal purposes [5]. Table 1 gives the morphological and other features of all the 12 *Jatropha* species.

In almost all the biodiesels, significant amounts of esters of oleic, linoleic or linolenic acids are present and the trend of increasing stability was linolenic < linoleic < oleic [6]. These esters undergo auto-oxidation with different rates depending upon the number and position of the double bonds and results in formation of a series of by-products, like acids, esters, aldehydes, ketones, lactones, etc. which renders the use of biodiesel as fuel due to problems experienced during engine operation like fuel filter clogging, fuel atomization etc. the presence of above byproducts of auto-oxidation and other reactions affect the biodiesel quality and hence make it unstable and unfit for use in engines. The basic aim of the paper is to review the work done by different researchers in field of stability of biodiesel from *Jatropha curcas* oil all over the world.

II. MECHANISM OF FUEL STABILITY

Fatty acid chain/ biodiesel with unsaturation in its fatty acids offers high reactivity with O₂, especially, when it is placed in contact with air/ water. As the *Jatropha curcas* biodiesel contains about 75% of unsaturated fatty esters, its oxidation stability is expected to be seriously impacted. Further, the fatty oils with more poly unsaturation, are more prone to oxidation [7- 34]. Literature reveals the relative rate of oxidation for the methyl esters of oleic (18:1), linoleic (18:2), and linolenic (18:3) acids to be 1:12:25 respectively [21]. Further work has indicated that the rate of oxidation of pure unsaturated fatty acids as measured by oxygen

consumption in closed system is proportional to the number of bis-allylic carbons present [20, 22]. As the linoleic (18:2) and linolenic (18:3) acid content in fatty oils or esters increases, the oxidation stability decreases and as fatty oils or the alkyl monoesters of fatty oils are oxidized, the hydroperoxide (ROOH) levels also increased indicating the drop in the quality of the oil or esters. [23].

TableI MORPHOLOGICAL FEATURES AND TRAITS OF DIFFERENT SPECIES OF JATROPHA [5]

Species	Native place	Oil (%) Content	Propagation methods
<i>Jatropha curcas</i>	Tropical America	30–42	Seed, cutting, grafting, air layering and tissue culture
<i>Jatropha gossypifolia</i>	Brazil	28–30	Seed and cuttings
<i>Jatropha glandulifera</i>	India	20–27	Seed and cuttings
<i>Jatropha multifida</i>	South America	32–40	Seed and by cuttings during spring
<i>Jatropha tanjorensis</i>	India	Sterile	Cuttings
<i>Jatropha podagrica</i>	Panama	Up to 54	Seed and by division of branches
<i>Jatropha integerrima</i>	West Indies	No report available	Cuttings
<i>Jatropha pandurifolia</i>	Cuba	No report available	Seed and cuttings
<i>Jatropha villosa</i>	India	No report available	No report
<i>Jatropha nana</i>	India	No report available	Seed
<i>Jatropha heynei</i>	India	No report available	Seed
<i>Jatropha maheswari</i>	India	No report available	No report

example, biodiesel from sunflower oil (BDSU) with only 21.1% saturates, gave a induction period of 3.23 h while the palm oil biodiesel (BDP) with 43.4% saturates exhibited induction period of 13.37 h indicating good stability. The reason for good stability of palm oil biodiesel is due to the resistance to auto-oxidation of saturated fatty acids. Palm oil has maximum proportion of saturates making it less susceptible towards oxidation as compared to JCB.

At sufficiently high temperatures, the methylene-interrupted polyunsaturated olefin structure begins to isomerize to more stable conjugated structure. Once this isomerization has begun, a conjugated diene group from one fatty acid chain can react with a single olefin group from another fatty acid chain to form a cyclohexene ring [18, 36, and 37]. This reaction between a conjugated di-olefin and a mono-olefin group, called the Diels Alder reaction, and becomes important at temperatures of 250-300°C or more. The reaction results in the formation of carbonyl compound such as aldehyde (formed from hydroperoxides) or high molecular weight polymers (formed from peroxide radicals) which increases the viscosity of biodiesel.

Literature has further revealed that very little work has been reported on thermal stability of JCB. However, some authors have studied the thermal behavior of *Jatropha curcas* biodiesel using TGA/DTA analysis. TG/DTG and PDSC experiments were used to obtain information on the temperature-controlled combustion of the biofuels synthesized. TG/DTG curves were obtained using a simultaneous analyzer SDT 2960 (TA Instruments), alumina pans, under dry air atmosphere (100 mL min⁻¹), heating rate of 10°C/ min and temperature range from 10⁰ to 700°C [38]. The equipment was calibrated by the TG mass (using standards masses and empty beam), DTA baseline and temperature adjust (evaluation of melting endotherms of pure zinc, tin and indium metals) [39]. The TG/DTG curves of physic nut oil (Fig. 1) show three peaks of thermal decomposition that were assigned to the volatilization and/or combustion of triacylglycerides. The TG/DTG curves of biodiesel (Fig. 2) show only two mass loss steps indicating volatilization and/or combustion of ethyl esters (the first step), mainly, the ethyl oleate and linoleate, once oleic and linoleic fatty acids are the most abundant components of the initial oils. Such results are in agreement with the literature where two mass loss steps for biodiesel were observed [40].

The oxidation stability tests were carried out at 100 °C and 120 °C by Sarin et al. [35]. As anticipated, the oxidation process was accelerated with increase in temperature. However, no difference in relative stability was noticed and biodiesel from the oil having large fraction of saturated fatty acids like palm was found to be still better than biodiesel from other oil sources like *Jatropha* with larger fraction of unsaturated fatty acids.

The customer acceptance, standardization and quality assurance are the key factors for introducing new alternatives of liquid biofuels as biodiesel and its blends into the market and storage stability is one such criteria. The storage stability problem of biodiesel during storage is expected to be more severe than for commercial diesel fuel. The resistance of biodiesel to oxidative degradation during storage is, therefore, an important increasingly important issue for the viability and sustainability of alternative fuels.

Stability may be affected by interaction with contaminants, light, factors causing sediment formation, which bring about changes in the color and hence reduce the clarity of the fuel [25, 26, 41]. Several authors have performed the long term storage test on biodiesel stability and studied the effect of

physical properties of the fuel with respect to time [27-30, 36-38] and it was reported that viscosity, peroxide value, acid value and density of biodiesel increases when stored for two years while the heat of combustion decreases [27-31].

Sarin et al. [42] have studied the influence of metal contaminants on the oxidation stability of Jatropha ME with particular reference to the presence of transition elements likely to be present in the metals of which the storage tanks and barrels are made. The transition metals like iron, nickel, manganese, cobalt, and copper commonly found in metal containers were blended with varying concentrations (ppm) in JCB samples. Metals were weighed using digital

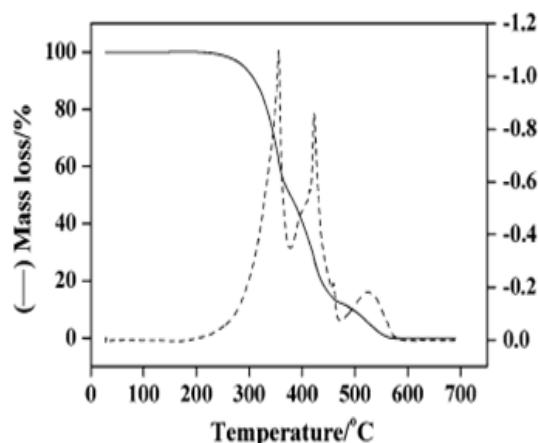


Fig. 1 TG/DTG Curves of from different crops of physic nut oil in air atmosphere

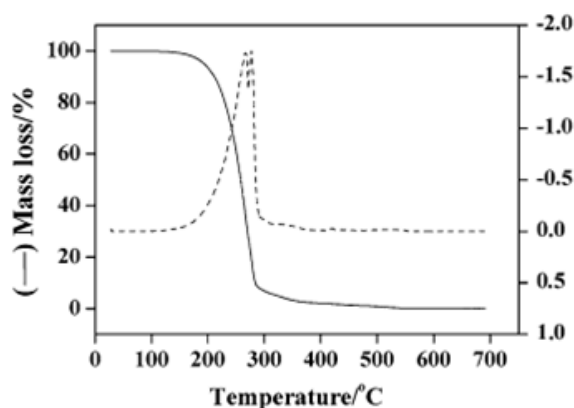


Fig. 2 TG/DTG Curves of from different crops of physic nut biodiesel oil in air atmosphere

weighting machine. The presence of these metals was found to depress the oxidation stability of biodiesel, as measured by the IP (fig. 3) due to the acceleration of free radical oxidation and metal-mediated initiation reaction which shows that copper had strongest catalytic effect and other metals like iron, nickel, manganese, and cobalt also had strong negative influence on the oxidation stability. The fig also shows that for all the metallic contaminants, IP values became almost constant as the concentration of metal is increased. This proves that the

influence of metals was catalytic, as even small concentrations of metals had nearly the same effect on the oxidation stability as the higher metal concentration has. The dependence of the oxidation stability on the type of metal confirms that Rancimat is suitable laboratories test that to correlate long-term stability.

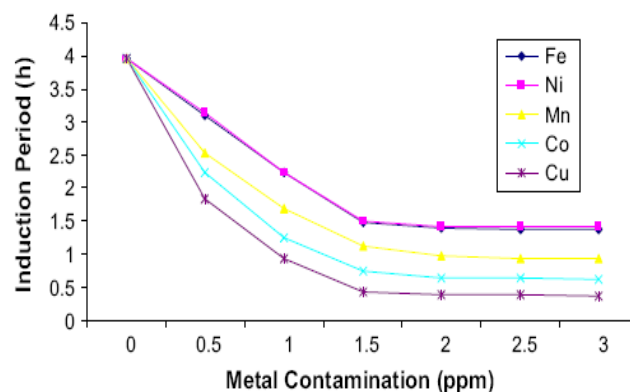


Fig. 3 Influence of metal contamination on oxidation stability

However, the effect of other storage parameters, e.g., exposure to atmosphere, environment temperature, cold storage, type of container etc on stability of JCB has not yet been reported in the literature.

III. METHODS TO INCREASE THE STABILITY

Oxidation can be significantly slowed down by the use of antioxidants, the chemicals which inhibit the oxidation process. Two types of antioxidants are generally known: natural and synthetic [43]. The mechanism of all antioxidants is shown below in fig.4.

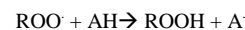


Fig.4 Mechanism of antioxidants

The effectiveness of antioxidant is generally measured by stressing a fatty oil or ester molecule both with and without the antioxidant [35- 76].

A. Natural Antioxidants

Tocopherol is a phenolic compound that exists in four isomers (α , β , γ , δ), all of which occur naturally in vegetable oils [44]. Depending on fatty oil processing conditions, tocopherols may be retained, partially lost, or completely lost [45, 46]. Similarly, post-transesterification processing of biodiesel like distillation can remove any tocopherols that were originally present in the vegetable oil feed.

B. Synthetic Antioxidants

These antioxidants are added in oils or biodiesel to increase its stability. Some of the most common synthetic antioxidants are given in table2:

TableII DIFFERENT SYNTHETIC ANTIOXIDANTS WITH THEIR CHEMICAL FORMULAE

Name of antioxidant	Main features
Pyrogallol(PY)	M.P. = 131-134 °C B.P. = 309°C Density = 1.45 g/cm ³ Molar mass = 126.11 g/mol
Gallic Acid(GA)	M.P. = 250 °C Density = 1.7 g/cm ³ (anhydrous) Molar mass = 170.12 g/mol
Propyl Gallate(PG)	M.P. = 150 °C B.P. = Decomposes Molar mass = 212.20 g/mol
Catechol(C)	M.P. = 105 °C B.P. = 245.5°C Density = 1.344 g/cm ³ , solid Molar mass = 110.1 g/mol
Nordihydroguaiaretic acid(NDGA)	Molar mass = 302.36 g/mol

Different synthetic antioxidants had different effects on the stability of biodiesel, depending on the feedstocks without affecting the properties such as viscosity, cold filter plugging point (CFPP), density, carbon residue and sulfated ash except acid value that appears to be affected slightly by the addition of antioxidants [77, 78].

Sarin et al. [35] have worked on blending Jatropha biodiesel with Palm biodiesel and found that Jatropha biodiesel when blended with palm biodiesel results in mixture that has efficient and improved low temperature property as well as good oxidation stability. The reason of blending is that Jatropha biodiesel has poor oxidation stability with good low temperature properties while Palm biodiesel has good oxidative stability but poor low temperature properties. The combinations of Jatropha and Palm biodiesel give an additive effect on these two critical properties of biodiesel.

The stability of biodiesel, being a critical quality parameter, requires the addition of antioxidants to ensure improved fuel quality at all points along the distribution chain. To meet EN 14112 specification, antioxidants concentration of about 200 ppm required for biodiesel which is much higher than that required for palm biodiesel as shown in fig. 5. In order to minimize the dosage of antioxidant, appropriate blends of Jatropha and palm biodiesel were prepared. It was found that the antioxidant dosage could be reduced by 80–90%, if Palm oil biodiesel is blended with Jatropha biodiesel at around 20–40% concentration.

It may be noted that of five metals investigated, copper has the strongest detrimental and catalytic effect compared to other metallic elements. The dependency of the oxidation stability on the type of metals showed that long-term storage tests using different types of metallic containers to examine the influence of container material on oxidation stability of biodiesel, may be replaced by the significantly faster Rancimat test serving as an accelerated storage test. The oxidation stability of metal contaminated JBD has been found to increase with increase in dosage of phenolic 2,6-ditertiarybutyl hydroxytoluene antioxidant (AO-1) as shown in fig.6.

As reported elsewhere, the formation of oxidation products in biodiesel impacts the fuel quality of biodiesel when exposed to a number of environmental factors, as a results, causes various operational problems during engine operation.

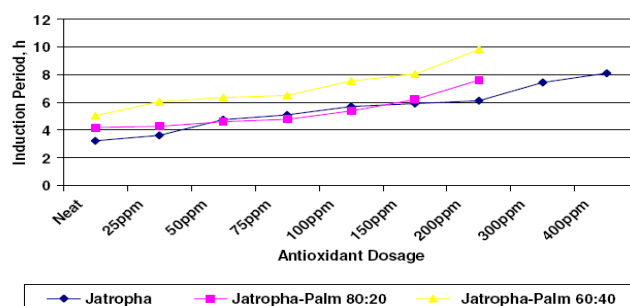


Fig.5 Antioxidant dose optimization for jatropha and palm biodiesel

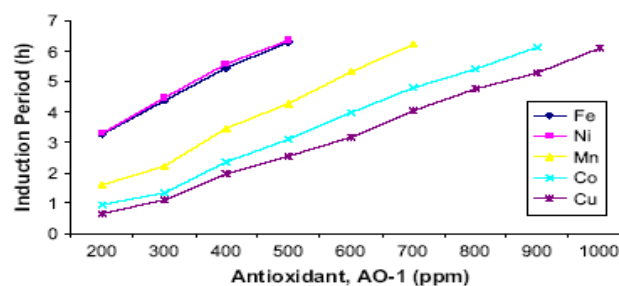


Fig.6 Influence of antioxidant concentration on the oxidation stability of metal contaminated (2 ppm) jatropha methyl ester

A number of research papers have reported the work on storage, thermal and oxidation stability of biodiesel from edible oils but very little work is reported on the stability of biodiesel from non-edible oil resources like Jatropha curcas, pongamia, etc. [39, 41, 67]. The maintenance of biodiesel fuel quality depends on the development of technologies to increase its resistance to oxidation during long-term storage.

Looking at high consumption of edible oils in developing countries the indigenous production is not coping with the consumption and hence significant amount is imported. And there is no possibility of diverting edible oils for biodiesel production. The non-edible oil resources, on the other hand, may be used for this purpose. *Mathuca indica*, *Shorea robusta*, *Pongamia globra*, *Mesua*, *Mallotus philillines*, *Garcinea indica*, *Jatropha curcas* and *Salvadova* have been identified as non- edible oil resources.out of which jatropha curcas is being given top priority for its planmmtation by Gov of India under national biodiesel program using waste/ semiarid land. As per an estimate, the potential availability of non-edible oil in India is about 1Million ton/yr.

In view of possibility of Jatropha curcas plant is being viewed as future source of biodiesel in the country and therefore, the maintenance of its fuel quality similar to petrodiesel becomes the need of the hour. Considerable efforts have therefore been directed to improve the oxidation, thermal and storage stability of JCB only so that the fuel quality of new fuel substitute of diesel can be ensured and indigenous fuel quality specifications can be developed.

IV. CONCLUSIONS

In South Asian countries like India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka etc, biodiesel can be harvested and sourced from non-edible seed oils like Jatropha. In fact, implementation of biodiesel from

Jatropha in India will lead to many advantages like providing green cover to wasteland, support to agricultural and rural economy, and reduction in dependency on imported crude oil and reduction in air pollution. In the recent years, the production of biodiesel from non-edible oil resources, improvement in the quality of biodiesel from the print of its acceptability by the markets and consumers has been accorded top priority by the scientific community all over the world. The biodiesel quality is affected by large number of parameters which can be categorized by oxidation, thermal and storage stability parameters. Considerable literature is available on the above stabilities of biodiesel from edible oils but very few work is available on the stability of biodiesel from non-edible oil resources like *Jatropha curcas*, *pongamia*, etc. which has prompted us to carryout stability studies on *Jatropha curcas* biodiesel only as it is becoming future transport fuel in the developing. In the present paper the oxidation, storage and thermal stability studies and use of antioxidants to improve the fuel quality has also been discussed.

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